

Message Text

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ACTION SS-25

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C O N F I D E N T I A L KINSHASA 7379

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: OVIP (KISSINGER, HENRY A.), CG
SUBJECT: POSSIBLE VISIT BY THE SECRETARY

REF: STATE 216028

1. FOREIGN MINISTER NGUZA HAS ASKED ME FOR EARLIEST POSSIBLE INDICATION OF DATES WHEN THE SECRETARY PLANS TO VISIT ZAIRE IF AFRICAN TRIP TAKES PLACE. NGUZA IS NOW PLANNING TO VISIT NIGERIA SEPTEMBER 13-15 (WHICH WOULD CONFLICT WITH THE SECRETARY'S VISIT HERE SEPTEMBER 13-14, AS SET FORTH TENTATIVE ITINERARY CONTAINED REFTEL). NGUZA SAID WHILE HE VERY MUCH WANTS TO BE HERE DURING THE SECRETARY'S VISIT, MOBUTU HAD TOLD HIM THAT IN VIEW OF IMPORTANCE OF IMPROVING RELATIONS WITH NIGERIA HE SHOULD NOT TRY TO CHANGE ALREADY-AGREED DATES FOR NIGERIAN VISIT. (NGUZA PLANS TO LEAVE ZAIRE EARLY AFTERNOON SEPTEMBER 13 AND RETURN BY MID-DAY SEPT. 15.) NGUZA CAN BE HERE FOR VISIT ON ANY OTHER DATES, INCLUDING SEPTEMBER 12-13 AND SEPTEMBER 15-16. SHOULD CONFLICT WITH HIS SCHEDULE PROVE UNAVOIDABLE, COMMISSIONER FOR POLITICAL AFFAIRS ENGULU, THE NEXT RANKING MEMBER OF THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL, WOULD SERVE AS SECRETARY'S OFFICIAL HOST. IN ANY CASE, MOBUTU WILL BE AVAILABLE ANYTIME UNTIL SEPTEMBER 18, WHEN HE WILL MAKE OFFICIAL VISIT TO RWANDA.

2. NGUZA SAID IF THE SECRETARY COMES MOBUTU WILL PROBABLY WISH TO RECEIVE HIM AT GEMENA, PRESIDENT'S HOME TOWN IN EQUATEUR PROVINCE. ASSUMING VISIT OF ABOUT 24 HOURS, WE WOULD ENVISAGE SECRETARY AND PARTY SPENDING AFTERNOON AND EVENING OF FIRST DAY
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IN KINSHASA, PROCEEDING FOLLOWING MORNING TO GEMENA FOR MEETING

AND LUNCH WITH MOBUTU, AND DEPARTING FROM GEMENA IN AFTERNOON FOR NEXT STOP IN ITINERARY. BESIDES ACCOMMODATING PRESIDENT, MEETING AT GEMENA WOULD AFFORD THE SECRETARY OPPORTUNITY TO VISIT BRIEFLY INTERIOR OF COUNTRY.

3. COMMENT: WHILE I REALIZE COMPLICATIONS IN PUTTING TOGETHER ITINERARY, I VERY MUCH HOPE SECRETARY'S STOP HERE COULD BE SCHEDULED TO PERMIT NGUZA TO SERVE AS HOST. WHILE ENGULU CAN DO THE JOB -- AS HE DID IN NGUZA'S ABSENCE DURING SECRETARY RUMSFELD'S VISIT -- HE KNOWS LITTLE ABOUT FOREIGN AFFAIRS, SPEAKS NO ENGLISH AND WOULD NOT BE NEARLY SO SUEFUL AS NGUZA SHOULD THERE BE NEED FOR FOLLOW-UP TO THE CONVERSATIONS.
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